

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for communicating audio, comprising:  
transmitting audio information segments on a first signal line, each segment including (i) a format portion representative of audio format modes and (ii) a data portion having audio data corresponding to one or more of the format modes; and  
transmitting a number of synchronization markers on a second signal line, each marker being representative of a timing of one of the audio information segments.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the audio comprises a serial bit stream.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information segments are unmodulated.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the information segments are representative of one or more audio channels.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the format portion comprises a 32 bit data word.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes include at least one of a version number, an audio stream ID, an audio sampling rate, an audio format, and a sample width.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the audio stream ID includes an indication of an intended recipient of one or more of the transmitted audio segments.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes are dynamic.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the format modes are configured to vary from one information segment to another information segment.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the synchronization marker include sync pulses.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein each sync pulse represents a start of one information segment transmission.
12. A method for communicating audio, comprising:  
receiving audio information segments on a first signal line, each segment including (i) a format portion representative of audio format modes

and (ii) a data portion having audio data corresponding to one or more of the format modes; and

receiving a number of synchronization markers on a second signal line, each marker being representative of a timing of one of the audio information segments.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the information segments are unmodulated.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the information segments are representative of one or more audio channels.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the format portion comprises a 32 bit data word.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein each sync pulse represents a start of one information segment reception.

17. A communication system including a data path configured for transferring audio data between a transmitting module and one or more receiving modules, the transmitting and receiving modules being formed on a printed circuit board, the system comprising:

an encoder positioned within the transmitting module and configured

to convert audio data requiring transmission into two-line audio information segments;

a data line having a first end coupled to a first data port of the encoder and configured to transmit the audio information segments, the audio information segments including (i) a format portion including at least an audio format indication and (ii) a data portion including data corresponding to the audio format indication;

a synchronization line having a first end coupled to a second data port configured to transmit a number of sync pulses each being indicative of a start of one of the audio information segments; and

a decoder positioned within the receiving module and having first and second ports respectively coupled to first and second data ports of the decoder, the decoder being configured to convert the received two-line audio information segments into audio data.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the transmitting and receiving modules are formed on an integrated circuit.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the data line is configured for transmitting multi-channel audio data.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the format portion includes a 32 bits format word.